



August 26, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing, on behalf of the City of Raleigh, to offer our support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) *I-85/I-40 Foundations for Safer and Automated Transportation (FAST)* application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD Program.

The I-85/I-40 corridor is a critical east-west connector, not only for the three major metropolitan areas it touches, but to all of the communities along the route. This project, when combined with other recent grant applications, demonstrates how complementary investments and a coordinated strategy can improve corridor performance, user safety, freight mobility, and digital connectivity of all communities in central North Carolina.

As co-chair of the NC FIRST Commission, tasked with evaluating North Carolina's current and future transportation investment needs and advising Secretary of Transportation James Trogdon of new or better ways to ensure that critical resources are available for the future, I keenly understand how the project will benefit communities across the state.

As we work to better connect North Carolina, and plan for the future, a FAST grant would help us in many ways.

1. Completes the NCDOT fiber-optic backbone from Raleigh to Charlotte, allowing operations personnel and first responders immediate and reliable access to a variety of traffic management systems.
2. Introduces new state-of-the art technology to improve traffic safety along the heavily traveled corridor, by focusing on risky driver behavior and non-ideal road conditions.
3. Provides the potential for improved broadband access to both urban and rural communities along the corridor.
4. Supports the deployment of connected and automated vehicle technology.
5. Supports the eventual interconnection of freight facilities.

These are just a few of the many reasons I strongly support the NCDOT I-85 / I-40 application.

The City of Raleigh fully endorses the plans and goals of the project and will work with NCDOT as needed during the implementation and operation phases of the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this BUILD grant request from NCDOT. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Michael Moore, Director of Transportation, at Michael.Moore@RaleighNC.gov or at 919-996-4093.

Sincerely,



Nancy McFarlane, Mayor

cc: Michael Moore, Director of Transportation, City of Raleigh